

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 JERUSA 02182 071605Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----121763 080050Z /15

R 071539Z AUG 78
FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1490
INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA

S E C R E T JERUSALEM 2182

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: MARR LE SY IS
SUBJECT: HADDAD'S INDEPENCE.

1. HAD OCCASION AUGUST 6 TO HAVE IN DEPTH CONVERSATION WITH LT. COL. LEVERETTE (US) CURRENTLY SERVING WITH UNIFIL ON SUBJECT OF HADDAD. HE KNOWS HADDAD WELL AND HAS MET WITH HIM PROFESSIONALLY AND SOCIALLY ON MANY OCCASIONS.

2. HADDAD'S DEEPLY HELD CONVICITION IS THAT CHRISTIANS IN SOUTH LEBANON MUST RELY ON THEMSELVES AND THEIR ISRAELI ALLIES. FOR TWO YEARS, WHILE HE AND HIS MEN WERE FIGHTING LEFTISTS AND PALESTINIANS, HE HEARD NOTHING FROM LEBANESE ARMY. (COMMENT: ARMY DID CONTINUE TO PAY HIS SALARY AND THAT OF HIS MEN. END COMMENT.)

3. LEBANESE ARMY, IN HIS VIEW, DOESN'T REALLY EXIST. IF IT DID, IT WOULD BE PROTECTING LEBANESE IN BEIRUT. BATTALION ASSEMBLED FOR MOVE SOUTH IS A PRO-SYRIAN FORCE IN HIS EYES, OFFICERED BY PRO-SYRIANS. ITS DEPLOYMENT TO THE SOUTH IS PART OF A PLAN TO TAKE OVER THE ENCLAVES AND THEN CLOSE THE GOOD FENCE. ON THIS

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LATTER POINT, HE SEES UNIFIL IN THE SAME LIGHT.

4. ON THE QUESTION OF HADDAD'S INDEPENDENCE OR LACK THEREOF FROM ISRAEL, SOURCE CONSIDERS THIS ACADEMIC SINCE HADDAD'S OBJECTIVES ARE THE SAME AS ISRAEL'S IN SOUTH LEBANON. SOURCE ALSO SAYS HADDAD'S VIEWS ARE WIDELY SHARED BY CHRISTIANS IN HIS AREA. IN THEIR EYES, HE IS A POLITICAL AS WELL AS

A MILITARY LEADER AND IS AN EFFECTIVE ORATOR.

NEWLIN

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Message Attributes

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